Your Constitutional Rights Are Worthless If Demagogues Can Deny Your Civil Liberties

THE EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE, since 1951, has defended many cases where basic freedoms have been violated. Today, its docket carries 13 court actions to protect the Constitutional guarantees of Americans.

Thirteen years ago, the affirmation by the U.S. Supreme Court of the Smith Act created an ***emergency in the liberties of the people of the United States.*** For the first time in our history, punishment for advocacy of ideas was authorized. Along with the Smith Act, during the McCarthy-McCarran hysteria, came Federal, State and local "laws" (few of which have yet been declared unconstitutional) that eroded the civil liberties of our citizens and sent many innocent persons to jail. In this crisis, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee was founded. Its purpose was—and is—to uphold the Bill of Rights without compromise and to defend in the courts the most important civil liberties cases.

The emergency is still with us today . . .
Right now, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is defending important cases that demand strong organization and effective action, if we are to preserve the Constitution in the way it was written. Here are examples . . .

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Case No. 1. The right of every American to a passport

This was established by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in the Supreme Court in 1958 when ECLC took the cases of Rockwell Kent and Dr. Walter Briehl to the highest tribunal. But the State Department has now reinstated disclaimer oaths in passport applications as a result of the McCarran Act.

The legality of this oath is being challenged by the ECLC which has appealed the case of Vincent Copeland and now awaits its hearing by the Supreme Court.

Case No. 2. The right of every American to freedom of speech

When, in Bloomington, Indiana, a local prosecutor used a State sedition law to indict three Indiana University students for sedition because they attended a meeting on civil rights, the students asked the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee for the services of their Counsel to prove that this law was unconstitutional.

ECLC's General Counsel, Leonard B. Boudin, argued the case on March 20th, 1964 and the Judge held the law unconstitutional. The three students were released.

However, the local prosecutor has announced that he will appeal the case to the Indiana Supreme Court. ECLC has agreed to defend against the Constitutional [illegible]

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Case No. 3. The right of Americans to assemble peaceably

"Advance," a group of about 100 young people in New York City, has been called before the Federal Subversive Activities Control Board to answer charges that the group is a "Front." If the Board decides that it is, the officers of "Advance" will be ordered to register. If they do, the members will not be able to get passports, Federal loans for education and employment in many industries. If they refuse to register, the officers can be sentenced to jail for five years and fined $10,000 a day for each day of refusal under the McCarran, or so-called Internal Security Law.

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has raised funds to defend these young people before the SACB and has agreed in case the Board orders their officers to register, to defend them in the courts.

Other Cases of Civil Liberties Denied

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is challenging in the courts the State Department's attempt to restrict Americans from traveling to certain countries. As a test case, it has taken the suit of Prof. Alan MacEwan and his wife for "validation" of their passports to travel to Cuba, and will vigorously press for this as a basic right.

ECLC is also defending the 3 students who were indicted for going to Cuba last summer with 56 others who have not been indicted. These 3 young people face fines of $10,000 and 15 years in jail each for exercising what they consider an inalienable right.

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade who fought so bravely in the Spanish Civil War in the thirties have been ordered by the SACB to register as a "Front." They are being defended by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

JOIN US TONIGHT
APRIL 13TH – 8 P. M.
JEFFERSON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel
6th Avenue at 34th Street

HEAR . . . Professor Thomas I. Emerson, William Worthy, Joni Rabinowitz, William Kunstler, Anne Braden.
Discussion from the Floor

Admission $2.50—Includes Refreshments

Do You Know About The Remarkable Work of The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee ?

The Committee is currently involved in still other civil rights cases, all of which have as their base the Constitutional guarantees and civil liberties of Americans. In the 13 years of its existence, the Committee has established important rights for Americans. It carries on an intensive campaign of education on the Bill of Rights, showing how it is being violated daily throughout the country, especially by inquisitorial committees of Congress. Its work is described in a bi-monthly publication, RIGHTS, and in other material published by the Committee. This material is free to Associates—Send for it TODAY.

HELP US HELP THOSE WHOSE CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE BEING VIOLATED

EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE
421 SEVENTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

___ I enclose $_____ to help you continue to maintain the Constitutional rights of all Americans.

___ Please send me your publication RIGHTS and other material published by ECLC. (If you have contributed $5 or more this year we will receive these without further cost.)

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